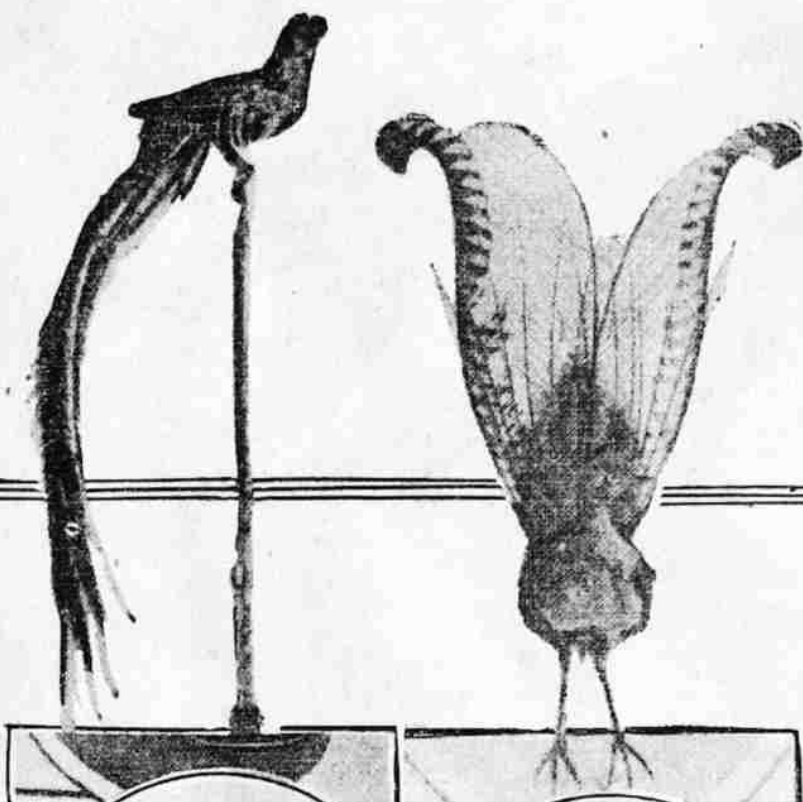


# WARNING TO TOURISTS— DON'T BUY AIGRETTES WHILE ABROAD



United States, champion of the down-trodden, is writing a new chapter on the art and science of chivalry. This time it is the poor little birds of tropics and the Himalayan heights which have received the protection of the great White Chief.

For many years there has been much agitation in America and Europe against women wearing aigrettes or paradise plumes. While the name aigrette is used to designate many kinds of bird plumage, technically the plumage of the heron is the aigrette. The herons of Venezuela and the West Indies make the most perfect aigrettes. These birds are killed just after the young have hatched. They are torn from the female bird because her plumage is most beautiful when her little nestlings open their big mouths and demand worms.

The plumage of the female bird is to make herself attractive during the mating season. As the budding debutante dresses in the most stunning costumes at her coming out party, so the heron puts on her best dress when the spring time comes. After her wedding day the plumage continues to grow. It becomes more and more beautiful until the little birds need their mother's nest.

When she works for them her plumage begins to fade and she is no longer desirable for plumage until the next year.

To the men who live in the land of fine birds these handsome plumages mean fortunes in the days of nesting. They can pick up the feathers which have been shed and they are worth only \$3 an ounce. But when they can get feathers from a living female bird just after the young have hatched, they can get \$15 an ounce for them.

The natives of Venezuela and Colombia, and of the Himalayan Mountains are for the most part cruel men who have not been imbued with the finer motives. The United States Government, in its investigations, learned that they pull the plumes from the wounded birds. They never care to kill them. Often they wound a bird, strip it of its feathers, and leave the bird lying on the ground, where it is attacked by red ants while still alive. Wounded birds are tied up in the marshes to act as decoys for other birds. They die of starvation.

On the nest the little birds open their big mouths and wish for food which does not come. The feathers make beautiful ornaments. They ought to. They won husbands for the birds and might win husbands for the women, too.

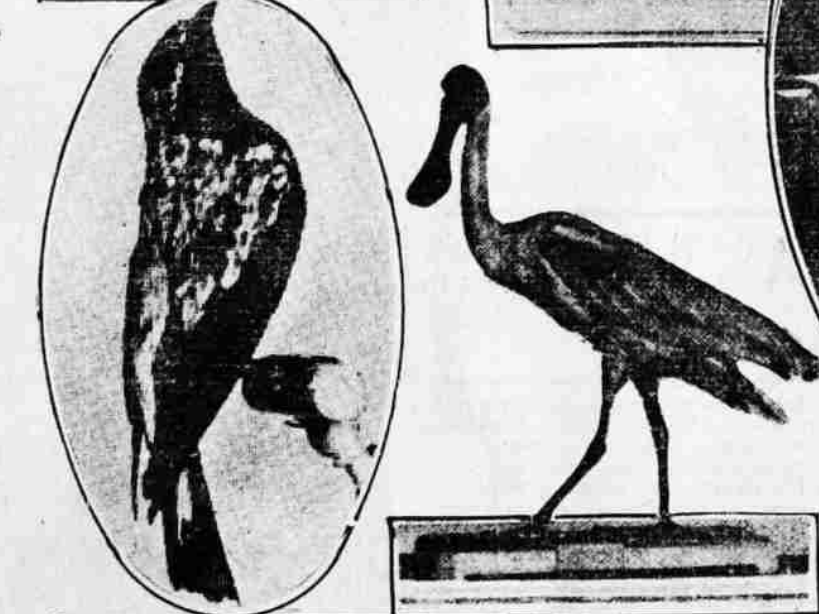
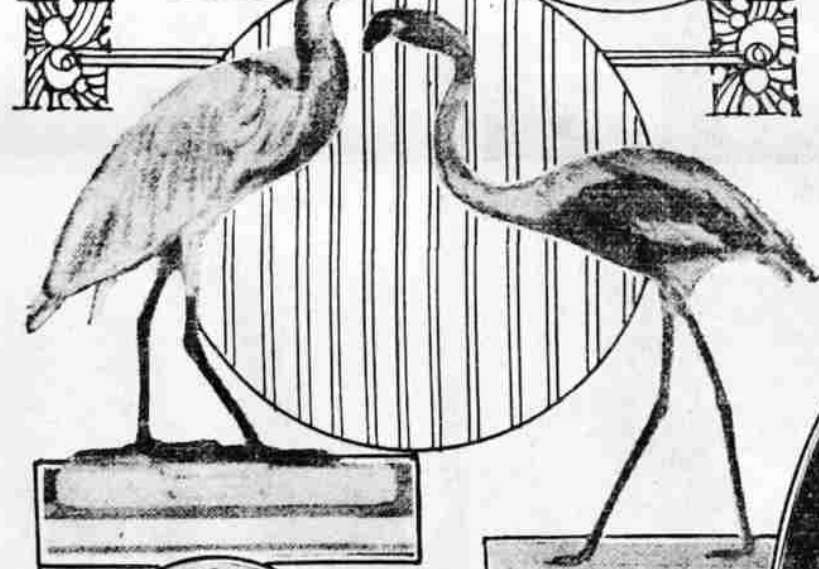
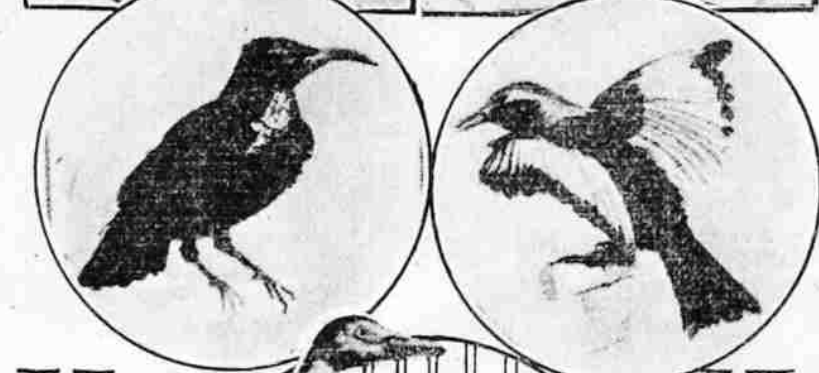
Then the United States Government took a hand in the affair. There is now a law against the importation in this country of all "aigrettes, egret plumes, osprey plumes, feathers, quills, wings, tails, skins or parts of skins of wild birds, either raw or manufactured and not for scientific or educational purposes."

When a woman wearing a hat decorated with one of the plumes enters a United States port the hat is seized and the plumes are cut off. The customs house officials are experts in detecting real plumes and imitations. There are some women who have reached America on some of the recent ships wearing alleged aigrettes, who were admitted without molestation. They congratulated themselves on their lucky escapes. But they were not nearly so lucky as they had supposed. The aigrettes they wore were imitations and the government has no objections to imitations.

## SWINDLED IN EUROPE; PASSED AT PORT.

This is the time when it is lucky to be swindled in Europe. Those who were swindled, thinking they were buying real aigrettes when they were buying imitations, passed the port without the imitation aigrettes cut off.

Some of the States have prohibited the sale of aigrettes. They are New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Vermont, Ohio, Louisiana, Washington, Oregon and California. In other States they can be sold without interference and the United States Government cannot take a hand in prohibiting the sale on account of States' rights. The only way the United States can interfere with the business is through the customs



UPPER right—Inspection of baggage at a customs house, where all aigrettes and other bird plumage is seized. At left—Plumage birds: Column of birds on left, reading from top downward, longtail trogon, rifle bird, cattle egret, crimson-throated chattering, blue chattering. Second column, lyre, regent bower, flamingo, spoonbill, monal pheasant. Other pictures show how these birds' feathers look when worn.



## Big Uncle Sam, Champion of the Weak, Instructs Customs Inspectors to Prevent Importation of Plumage, Thus Saving Lives of Beautiful Birds.

Himalaya are also under discussion, and will in all probability be listed.

### The City of Gayety.

Gayety fills the streets of Buenos Ayres. From 4 to 6 in the afternoon the Florida is an avenue of beauty and of joy. Everybody seems to have plenty of money and fine clothes, and to rejoice in making this fact known. The ladies are decked out in the smartest millinery that Paris can produce and the finest jewels that money can buy. By common consent during this hour of the day wheeled vehicles seem to avoid this fashionable promenade. It is lined with shops that recall the great streets of London and Berlin. Nowhere else in the world does one get a stronger impression of exuberant wealth and optimistic extravagance.

On fine afternoons in the Avenida de Mayo and other principal avenues, as well as in Palermo Park, there is a wonderful display of carriages, drawn by handsome horses and of still more mostly motor cars. The motor cars go at a rate of twenty-five to forty miles an hour, and I was told that they would kill more persons in proportion to the population than in New York City. When a great singer of artists visits the city the vehicles often become so crowded together that they are unable to move for twenty minutes. The police, however, regulate the traffic very well and every one is as good-natured as he is gay. The policemen are "gauchos"—half Indian cowboys from the Western country.

The race course is out at Palermo Park. The races are held on Sunday afternoon. An immense crowd gathers and the grandstand and all the inclosures are filled. The wealth and fashion of the republic are there. The men are dressed like the gentlemen of London and New York, and the women are gowned from Paris. Nature has given the women of this city fine features and beautiful eyes, but custom here seems to prescribe that Nature shall not be left to herself. Betting on the horses is the great excitement and I am told that on some occasions a million dollars changes hands.



of extermination or serious reduction will receive protection. The procedure followed is simple and effective. The committee notifies the London Chamber of Commerce, and the protected bird is added to a printed list. This list is placed in the dock warehouses, and in the offices of merchants and brokers. Translated into French and German, it will be found in Paris, Berlin, and Vienna. The Economic Committee's plan is effective wherever the feather trade exists, and is calculated to put a stop to abuses of whatever kind. Mr. Hobhouse, who is in charge of the plumage bill now before the House of Commons, was compelled to admit that to country with a feather trade has accepted the British Government's invitation to an international conference. France has refused outright; Germany and Austria have not replied. On the list for prohibition at the next meeting of the committee are several species of Paradise bird—the Prince Rudolph and Galleml, that are too rare to have a trade use, and the Apoda and Rubra Paradise birds. The Tragopans of the

house, and there is where the customs inspectors are doing good work.

Why the United States should worry about birds of foreign lands has caused considerable comment in Europe. They are used to the United States playing the great humanitarian giant, but they have accused the country of making a grand stand play for effect. When the United States went to war for Cuba they accused her of being a land grabber. But the United States is not a land grabber in the protection of foreign birds. True, some of these birds reach the United States during their migration, but

they are not many.

Joining hands with the United States, England has been moved to fight for the birds and has called other European countries to assist in stamping out the destruction.

The Committee for the Economic Preservation of Birds in England began its labors in the beginning of last year by inviting the merchants of England, France, Germany and Austria, the only countries in Europe with a plumage trade, to accept the principle of Economic Protection, and to pledge themselves to render it effective. After long negotiations, the undertakings were given officially, and

the committee set to work to inquire into the question of birds needing protection. Three rare Australian species were first listed—the Regent Bower Bird, Rifle Bird, and Lyre Bird. These were being smuggled out of Australia. The family of Chattering (Cotingidae) came next, and then the Quetzal, or Resplendent Trogon of Guatemala, the Flamingo and Spoonbill followed, their plumage, seldom found in London, has often been sold on the markets of the Continent. Following these, the Economic Committee applied to a distinguished scientist, who has lived and worked in India, to make a report on the Indian birds sent to

European markets. This report declared that the Cattle Egret, though plentiful, and in no danger of reduction, is so beneficial to agriculture that it should not be used for commercial purposes.

The London import of this bird's plumage is valued at upwards of \$150,000 a year, but on the committee's recommendation, the bird has been listed.

The latest to receive protection is the Impayan, or Monal Pheasant, another Indian bird found in danger of serious reduction. Other species of great beauty and commercial value are being considered by the committee, and any found in danger